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Richland Library Main

Abstract

Tracy Allen, Director of Library Experience at Richland Library's Main branch gives an overview of the branch's services, spaces, and changes that have recently taken place.

Keywords

Richland Library, Columbia, SC



SC LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Richland Library Main

If you are ever in Columbia, be sure to make your way over to 1431 Assembly Street. There you will find a jewel of Columbia, the Richland Library.

The library already enjoyed a large and diverse fan base with its massive collections and superior programming. Then, in 2013, a bond referendum was passed to fund improvement and upgrades to the eleven libraries in the system. Richland Library is dedicated to a customer-centered ideal, where the people of Richland County are at the core of everything we do. The renovations at the main library provided the opportunity to reduce the amount of back office and staff space in order to enlarge the public-use areas. Our impact has increased with the completion of the newly renovated spaces and expanded services. The focus for the renovation of Richland Library Main is to create a building supports modern library services and contemporary approaches to common spaces, while continuing to provide the proper environment for learning, creativity, and community. We wanted to create variety in the experiences patrons can enjoy while at the library.

To that end, Richland Library's first level welcomes visitors with a sunlit art gallery that leads to our soon-to-open café space. Upon

entering the main area, you will find our impressive Local History room and our Film & Sound department with its vast collection of materials, as well as a large auditorium space with a catering kitchen.

Additional environments for learning and creativity are available on the second level, including adult makerspaces, meeting spaces, study rooms, a production stage, post-production lab, studio print shop, writers' room, theater, and artist-in-residence studio. Additionally, Richland Library provides more than a telephone number when customers require the



Artist/Puppeteer Lyon Hill demonstrates shadow puppetry in Richland Library Theater

latest information on food insecurity, healthcare, affordable housing, and SNAP or veterans' benefits. We currently have two full-time social workers on staff to answer your questions and provide one-on-one assistance.

The third level features Richland Library's new, state-of-the-art Business, Careers, and Research Center, with dedicated business and career computers and spaces such as the Family Career Studio, Co-working Center, Career-Coaching Center, Networking Center, and a computer classroom.

The Garden Level will open in late fall of 2017 with a dazzling Youth Services department comprising an enormous children's and teen

collection. There will be gaming space, a teacher resource corner, a shadow puppet tunnel, a story-time room, a teen deck, a nursing room, a teen makerspace, and a new entrance off Assembly and Washington streets near the customer parking lot. As if all this were not enough, we will have a permanent piece of art by Marius Valdes, and our beloved, one-of-a-kind mural by Maurice Sendak, a scene from *Where the Wild Things Are*, is coming back!

Our core mission continues to be connecting people to information and resources that will enhance their lives. Whether you choose to walk through Richland Library's doors or access resources digitally outside our walls, our staff are working to offer new opportunities—for people of all ages—to learn, create, and share.

Tracy Allen, Director of Library Experience,
Richland Library Main



Play-space for children while caregivers seek employment